

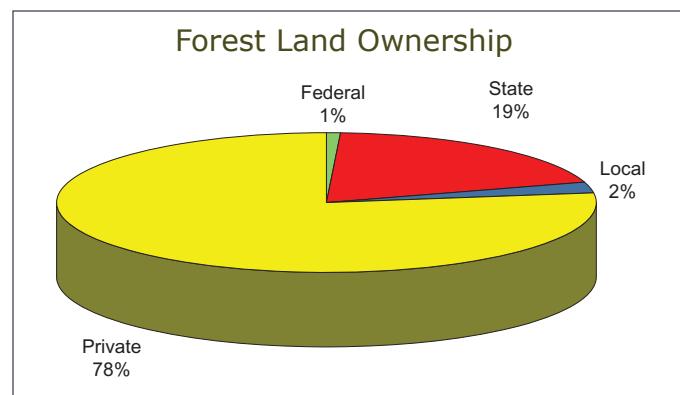
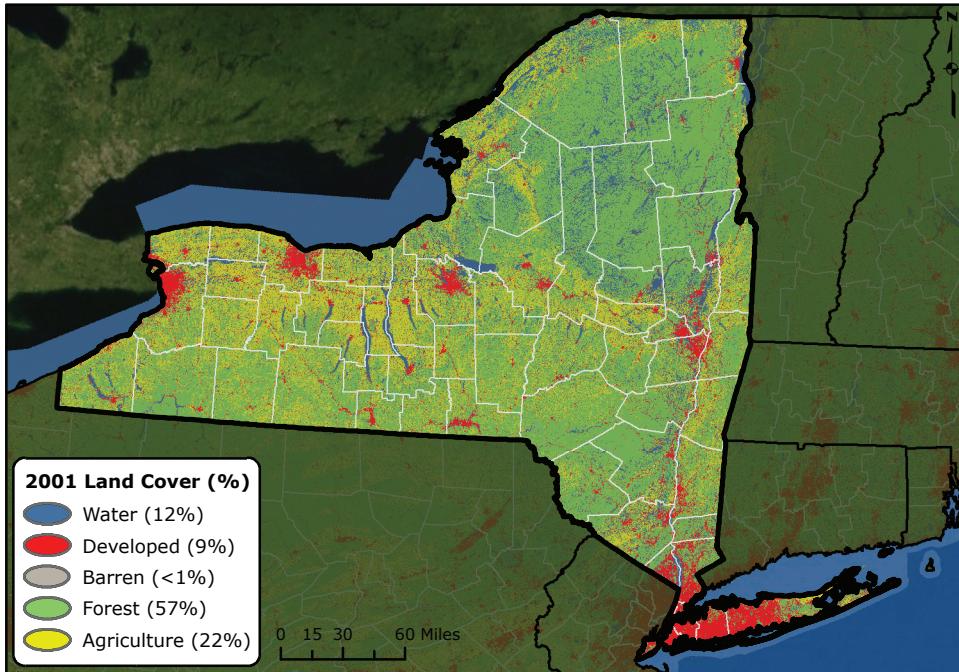


# 2008 Forest Health NEW YORK *highlights*



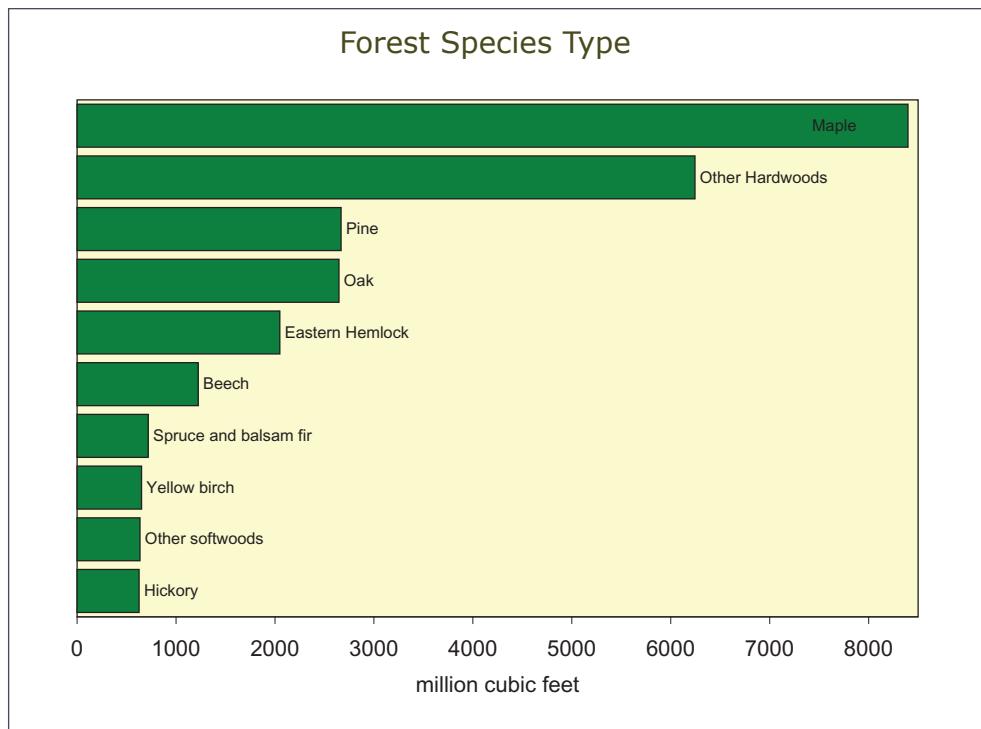
## Forest Resource Summary

New York's forests are 78 percent privately owned. The State owns 19 percent of the land, which mostly encompasses the Adirondack Park. These forest lands provide a recreational base for millions of residents and others visiting the State's scenic regions. New York's forests also produce timber, providing employment to 2 percent of the State's workforce. The manufacture of wood products provides \$2.4 billion annually to the State's economy. The latest New York forest inventory estimates that 57 percent of the State is forested—approximately 18.7 million acres—with 22 percent in agriculture. The forest resource is made up of a variety of forest types, mostly maple and other hardwoods, along with pine, oak, and eastern hemlock.



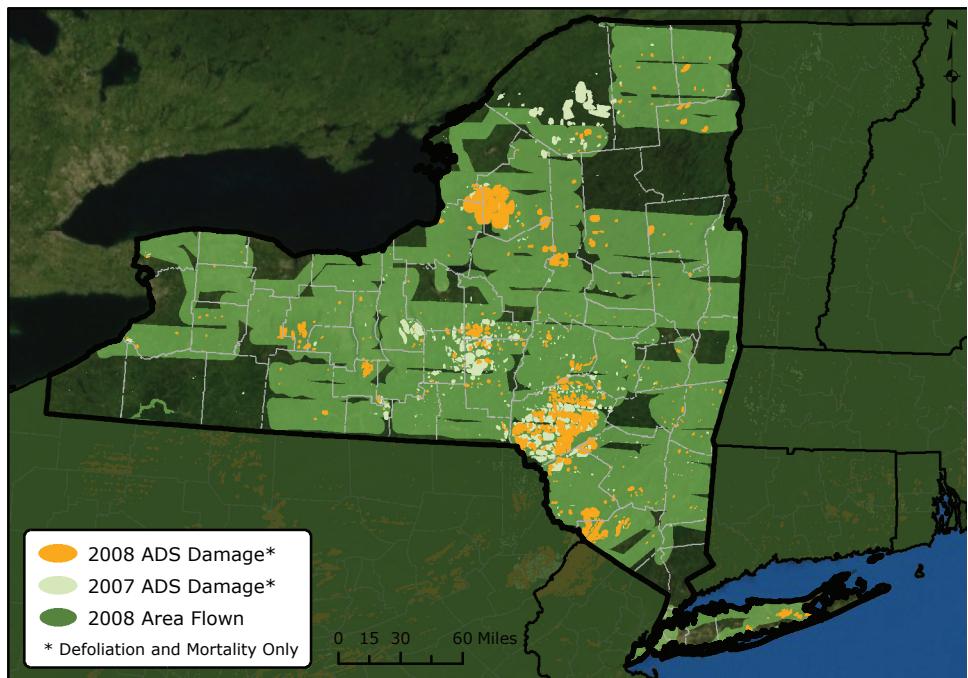
## Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

State forestry agencies work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor forest conditions and trends in their State and respond to pest outbreaks to protect the forest resource.



## Aerial Surveys

Aerial surveys and ground surveys are conducted annually throughout the State. These surveys are used to evaluate tree health and identify stressors. In 2008, 666,000 acres of damage were recorded based on aerial surveys. The largest portion of the activity observed resulted from forest insects and a variety of tree diseases. The most significant defoliators were forest tent caterpillar, which affected approximately 200,000 acres, and the gypsy moth, orange striped oakworm, and cherry scallop shell moth. Beech bark disease and root disease were also evident, and some areas were affected by sycamore anthracnose.



This map delineates aerial detection survey (ADS) results for New York in 2007 and 2008.

## Forest Damage

### Exotic Insects

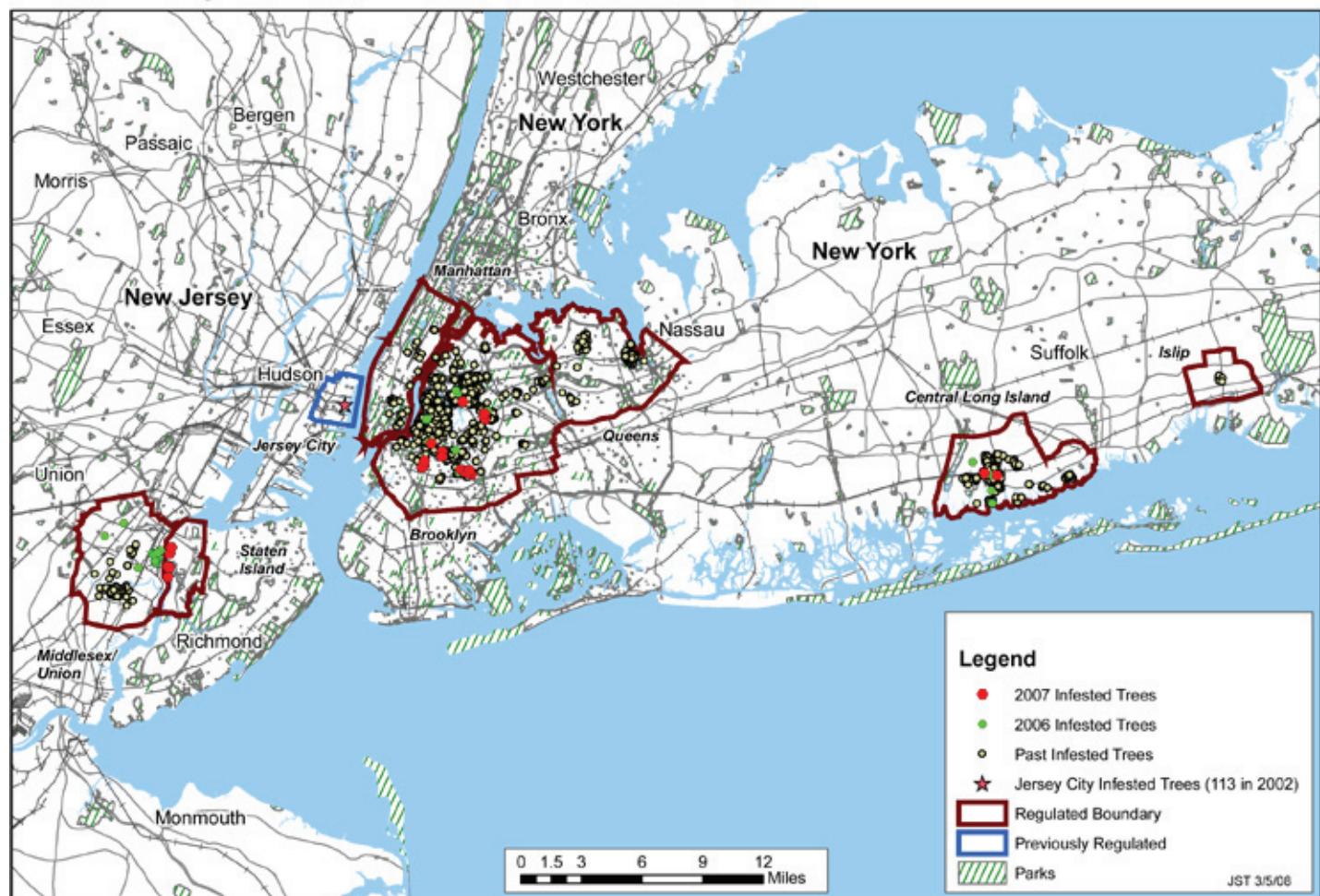
Cooperative efforts to eradicate **Asian longhorned beetle** from quarantined areas in New York City and Long Island are ongoing, but progress is slow. The most significant findings in 2008 were 13 new infested maple trees on Staten Island in Richmond County. Due to this find, surveyors will expand the current treatment and inspection boundaries, which have been in place since the initial detection of the beetle on Staten Island in spring 2007. The Asian longhorned beetle had been using Prall's Island, adjacent to New Jersey, to hopscotch to Staten Island. Recent intensive control efforts have eliminated the beetle from Prall's Island. New York State personnel believe that this serious pest can be successfully eradicated through early detection, rapid response, and interagency cooperation and teamwork.



### Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program



#### New York and New Jersey Overview



The Asian longhorned beetle was found infesting additional trees on Staten Island in 2008.

About 107,000 acres were defoliated by **gypsy moth**. Damage was concentrated in the western Finger Lakes, southern Catskills and Hudson Valley, and eastern Long Island. No new counties were found infested with the **European pine shoot beetle**.

The **hemlock woolly adelgid** continues to cause damage and mortality to native forest and ornamental eastern hemlock trees. Damage is most severe in areas that have been infested for several years in the Catskills and southern part of the State. In some areas a majority of the trees are infested, and many of those are in declining health or dead. Areas of hemlock mortality can be seen from the air in infested areas. The most significant development in 2008 was the detection of several infested areas in the Finger Lakes region. Some of these infestations appear to be several years old. The counties with newly observed infestations include Schuyler, Seneca, Tompkins, and Yates.

**Elongate hemlock scale** is common in approximately the same range as hemlock woolly adelgid, and often, but not always, found in the same stands. Damage from the scale is hard to separate from damage by the adelgid at times, but both have caused significant decline and mortality of hemlocks, independently and together.

No additional counties were found infested with **Sirex woodwasp** (*Sirex noctilio*), which was detected in New York in 2005, although it is assumed that most of the State is likely infested. Given the relatively low efficiency of the traps and lures currently available for *Sirex noctilio*, and the expansion of the trapping effort into neighboring States, it is likely that other New York counties are also infested but escaped detection by trapping. Within the known infestation, much of the worst damage is found on State-owned pine plantations, many of which are overstocked and/or in declining health.

Surveys for **emerald ash borer** resulted in no finds for the insect, but stands containing ash with various symptoms of decline were mapped. Native ash borers were sometimes present in these stands and a few cases of ash yellows were found in these stands as well.



Robert Davies, Director of New York Division of Lands and Forests, installs one of the State's emerald ash borer traps.

## Native Insects

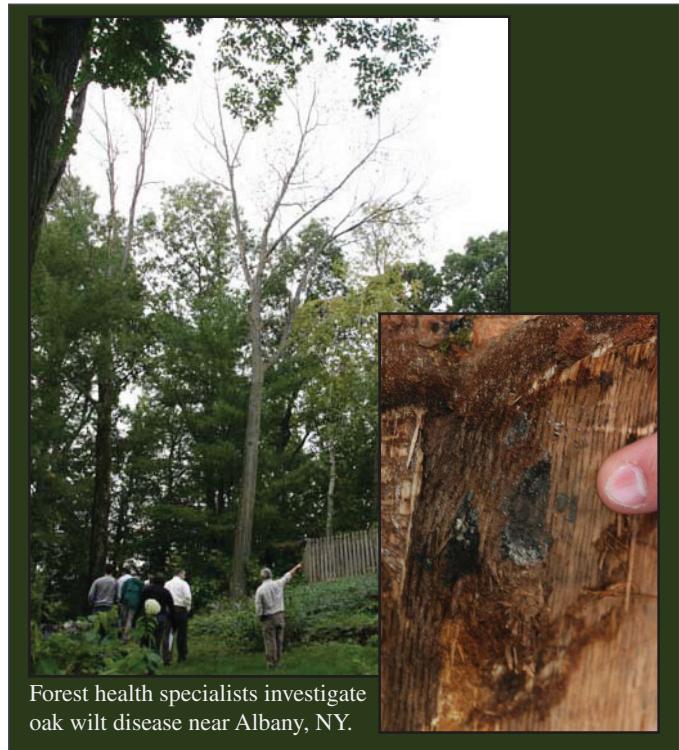
**Forest tent caterpillar** was again the most significant defoliator in New York in 2008. Approximately 237,000 acres were confirmed defoliated, with damage occurring in the Catskills and west throughout the central part of the State.

**Locust leafminer** caused some moderate to heavy discoloration and defoliation on black locust over portions of eastern New York, especially the lower- to mid-Hudson River Valley. Damage has been noticed earlier in the season each year for the past few years.

No significant defoliation by the **eastern spruce budworm** was observed in 2008, and trap counts were generally low.

## Diseases

A significant finding of **oak wilt** was detected in New York for the first time in 2008, far from any known infection site in Pennsylvania. The single known infected area is located in Schenectady County in the town of Glenville, where several red oaks have been killed. A plan is in place to attempt eradication of the disease, which includes removal of suspected hosts before the 2009 spring sporulation of the fungus that caused the disease.



Forest health specialists investigate oak wilt disease near Albany, NY.

**Butternut canker** is common in New York wherever butternut is found; it is uncommon to see a symptom-free butternut. This disease was not reported from any new counties in 2008. The State has begun archiving locations of healthy butternut when it is found or reported, but the dataset is far from complete.



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**Dogwood anthracnose** continues to affect understory and ornamental flowering dogwoods across the State. Symptoms of **Dutch elm disease** are conspicuous statewide. Many of the trees now succumbing are mature individuals in urban and suburban settings, which survived the initial wave of the disease through the region. **Beech bark disease** can be found readily throughout New York State.

Stream baiting in two locations in southeastern New York in 2008 resulted in no positive tests for **Ramorum blight**, caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*. Subsequent surveys for the initially reported positive for *P. ramorum* from Long Island in June 2004 indicated that the pathogen was not present on the site. None of the State's other surveys, which centered mostly on Long Island, has found the pathogen. Experts concur that the initial positive was false.

A **bacterial leaf scorch** survey in cities and forests resulted in no new confirmed counties in 2008. There were previous positive finds in Brooklyn in Kings County and in Westchester County and Rockland County.

## Other Forest Concerns

An **ice storm** on December 12, 2008, resulted in extensive branch and stem breakage across much of eastern New York. Severity ranged from low to significant within the following counties: Albany, Chenango, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Otsego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, and Washington.

**Giant hogweed** is present in 32 New York counties. There are 497 known populations of the plant, with the largest and densest of these found in the western half of the State. There is little hard data available on the ecological and human health impact of giant hogweed in New York.



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